Scrutiny of Defence deals by a group of eminent persons

2235. SHRIMOOL CHAND MEENA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Defence has decided to set up an eminent persons' group to scrutinize defence deals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Scrutiny of major procurement cases by an "eminent persons group", is being considered. No final decision has, however, been taken in this regard.

Fate of missing MIG aircraft

2236. DR.AKHILESHDAS:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a MIG aircraft with its two pilots went missing on 25th April, 2002; and

(b) if so, what has been the fate of this aircraft and its pilots?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. A MiG-21 trainer aircraft, with two pilots is missing since 20th April, 2002.

(b) Efforts to locate the crash site and missing pilots are continuing. However, it is presumed that both the pilots have been killed in the crash.

Supply of modernised radars to India by the USA

2237. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India made a request to the U.S.A. to supply 8 modernized radars in April this year; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the U.S. Government thereto?